THE ARCHITECTURAL LEXICON

A VISUAL GLOSSARY OF FORM AND FUNCTION

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PREFACE

Architecture is a language spoken in steel, concrete, and light. This volume defines the vocabulary of the built environment, translating the silent physics of construction into the spoken word of design.

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CURVATURE

[kur-vuh-cher]

noun

The deviation of a structural element from a straight line, creating a continuous flow of movement through space that guides the eye and the body simultaneously.

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CANTILEVER
[kan-tl-ee-ver]
noun
CANTILEVER
[kan-tl-ee-ver]
noun
A rigid structural element that extends horizontaly and is supported at only one end, seemingly defying gravity to create shelter without enclosure.

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INTERSECTION
[in-ter-sek-shun] *noun*
The critical node where two or more structural vectors meet, transforming a collision of forces into a unified point of circulation and stability.

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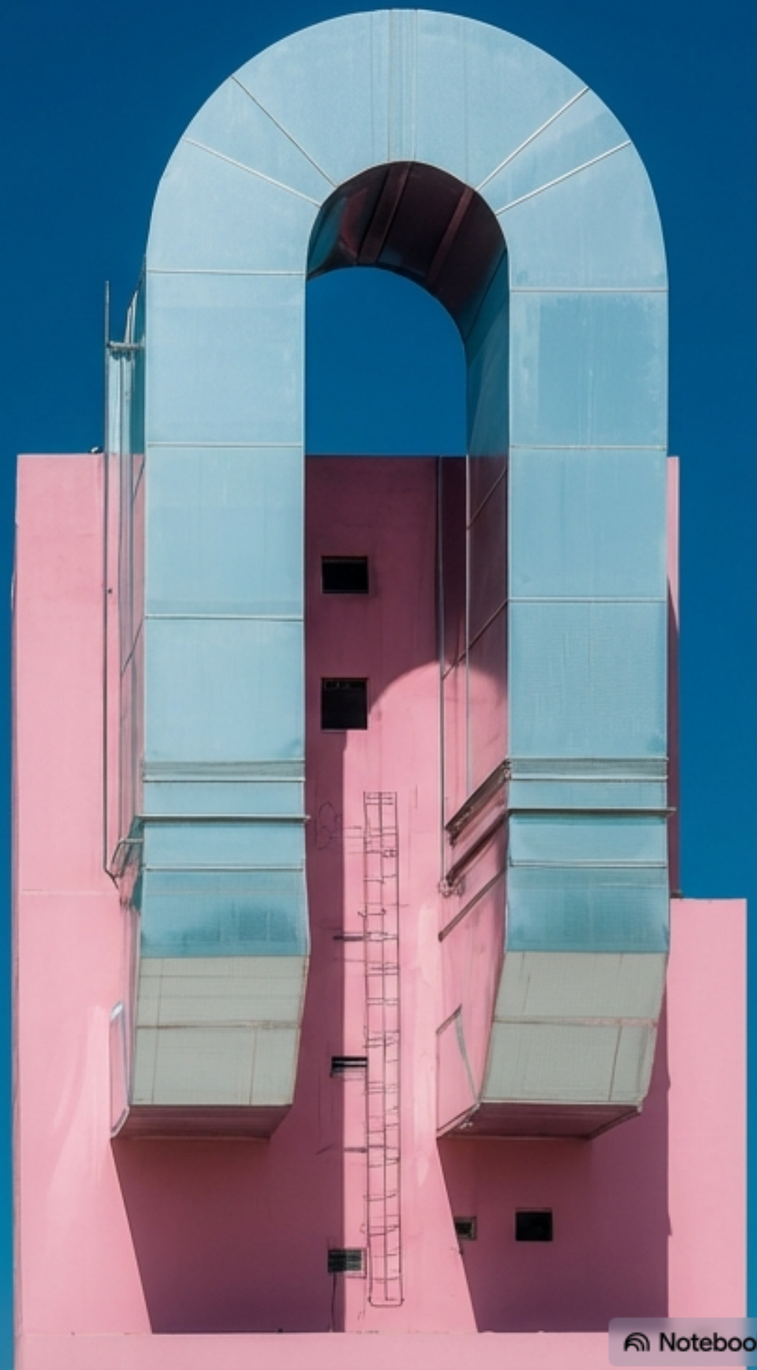
MODULAR

[moj-uh-ler]

adjective

Constructed with standardized units or dimensions; a design logic that embraces repetition to achieve flexibility, symmetry, and industrial harmony.



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CIRCULATION

[sur-kyuh-lay-shun]

noun

The essential movement of air, people, or energy through a building's system; the invisible pulse of the structure made visible through external form.

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CAPACITY

[kuh-pas-i-tee]

noun
The maximum amount that something can contain; volume expressed as vertical industrial form, prioritizing utility and magnitude over ornamentation.

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INFRASTRUCTURE
[in-fruh-struhk-cher]
noun
The fundamental physical and organizational facilities needed for operation; the "skeleton" of the building worn on the outside as an aesthetic statement.

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VOLUME

[vol-yoom]

noun

The amount of space that a substance or object occupies; an enclosed three-dimensional space that asserts its weight against the skyline.

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LOOP

[loop]

noun

A shape produced by a curve that bends around and crosses itself; a continuous circuit that implies infinite motion within a static structure.

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ORGANIC

[or-gan-ik]
adjective

Relating to or derived from living matter; flowing forms that mimic biological shapes, rejecting the straight line in favor of the curve.

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REFLECTION
[ri-flek-shun]
noun
The throwing back by a body or surface of light, heat, or sound without absorbing it; the building dematerializing by mirroring its environment.

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VERTICALITY

[vur-ti-kal-i-tee]

noun

The alignment of elements along an up-and-down axis, emphasizing height, reach, and the aspiration of the structure to touch the sky.

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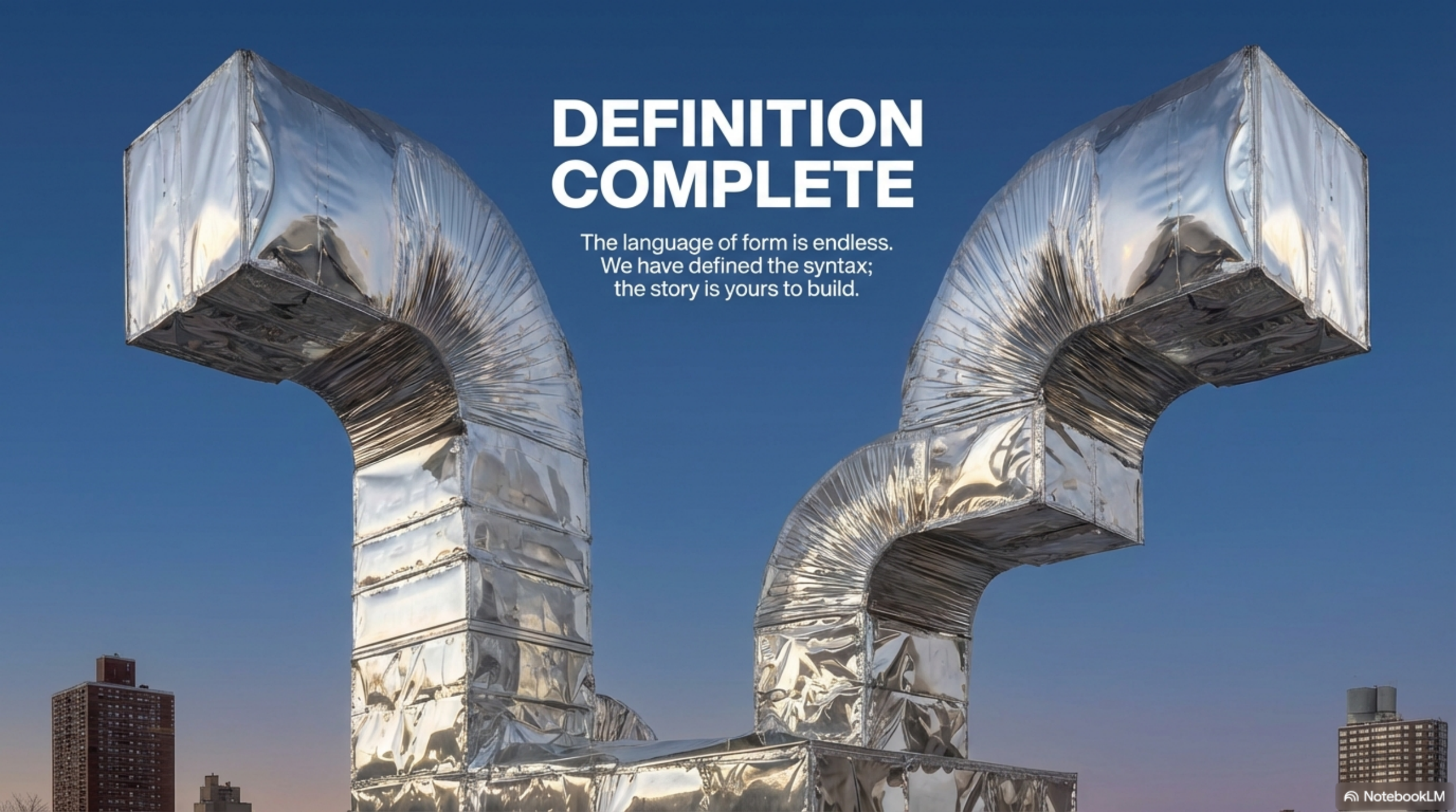
DEFINITION
COMPLETE
The language of form is endless.
We have defined the syntax;
the story is yours to build.
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